

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of The Empire District)	
Electric Company of Joplin, Missouri)	
for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing)	
Rates for Electric Service Provided to)	Case No. EO-2012-03457
Customers in the Missouri Service)	
Area of the Company)	

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES'
APPLICATION TO INTERVENE**

COMES NOW Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and, pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075, respectfully requests that the Commission issue its order granting MDNR's Application to Intervene. For its Application, MDNR states as follows:

1. On July 6, 2012, The Empire District Electric Company (Empire) submitted a tariff designed to implement a general rate increase for electric utility service with the Missouri Public Service Commission. The Commission issued an *Order Directing Notice, Setting Intervention Deadline, Setting Procedural Conference and Directing Filing of Proposed Procedural Schedule* on July 9, 2012. In its July 9, 2012 Order, the Commission established an intervention deadline of July 19, 2012, and a July 23, 2012 prehearing conference.
2. MDNR, and specifically its Division of Energy, is a state agency vested with the powers and duties set forth in Section 640.150, RSMo.

3. MDNR has an interest different than that of the general public, and its intervention will serve a public interest in that the Division of Energy will be looking at the proposed filing from a formal policy and planning perspective as well as looking at the potential impacts on environmental quality. The Division of Energy's review will also relate to the mandate set forth in Section 640.150 RSMo, which includes planning for energy resource development; analyzing energy management issues; consulting and cooperating with all state and federal governmental agencies on matters of energy research and development, management, conservation and distribution; assessing the potential impacts on environmental quality; and analyzing the potential for increased use of energy alternatives and making recommendations for the expanded use of such alternate energy sources and technologies.

4. Communications, correspondence, orders and decision in this matter should be addressed to:

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5. MDNR is uncertain at this time of the position it will take regarding the relief sought by Empire in this case.

WHEREFORE, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests that it be allowed to intervene in the above-styled matter.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Knee", is written over the typed name.

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**Attorneys for Missouri Department
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been served electronically on all counsel of record this 17th day of July, 2012.

/s/ Jeremy Knee
Assistant Attorney General